

Contact: Captain James Richardson Day Telephone: (757) 890-3645 Night Telephone: (757) 890-3621 Pager (757) 872-3833

# York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office:

# Investigates Robberies

**Yorktown**, Between July 7, and July 8, 2005, three separate robberies were reported to the York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office.

In the first incident two subjects were playing basketball at Charles Brown Park in the Lackey section of Yorktown. It was on July 7 at approximately 9:30 p.m. The victims were approached by three black males that had emerged from the wood line. They were forced to the ground at gunpoint and robbed of their wallets. One of the victims was assaulted by one of the robbers and sustained some injuries, but did not require hospitalization. The victims were able to provide a limited description of the suspects, but did indicate that they appeared to be 16-22 years old. At least one of the subjects was armed with semi-automatic handgun.

The second robbery occurred on July 7<sup>th</sup> at approximately 11:30 p.m. It happened in the 300 block of Bridge Crossing. The 3 victims were in their car and were approached by 4 tall black male subjects, ordered out of the car at gunpoint and forced to the ground. The victims again were robbed of their wallets. The victims were able to provide a limited description of the suspects, but did indicate that they appeared to be between 20 and 25 years old. Two of the subjects were armed with semi-automatic handguns.

The third robbery occurred on July 8<sup>th</sup> at approximately 12:50 a.m. in the 200 block of Barham Blvd. The victim was approached two black male subjects. One of the subjects was armed with a semi-automatic handgun. The victim was ordered to the ground and robbed of his wallet. The suspects were described as 19-25 years old.

In all of these robberies the suspects covered their faces with bandannas. Investigators have been following up leads, but are asking for the public's assistance and to call if they have any information.



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**Yorktown, July 13** – At approximately 11:35pm on July 12<sup>th</sup> two subjects were robbed in the 100 block of Cool Court. This is the eighth street robbery that has been reported in the last month. The victims were robbed of their wallets while standing outside of their apartment. There were three suspects in this case. All three subjects were armed with guns. Both of the victims were assaulted by the suspects and were treated and released from this hospital. A small red Ford, possibly a Festiva was seen in the area just prior to the robbery and may be involved. The suspects are described as follows:

- #1- B/M, 5'11", 160-170 lbs., 20-25 years old, wearing a black hat, white shirt, and blue jeans.
- #2- B/M, 5'11", 180-190 lbs., 20-25 years old, wearing a black shirt and dark blue pants. He also had dreadlocks hair style and was wearing a scarf over his face.
- #3 B/M, 5'11", 180-190 lbs., 20-25 years old, wearing a black hat, white shirt, and black pants. He also wore a scarf over his face.

The Sheriff's Office wants to remind residents to stay alert and report any suspicious activity.

Anyone with information on these robberies is asked to call the Crime Line at 1-888-Lock-u-up.



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# York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office:

# **Prevention Tips**

The chances of you or a member of your family becoming a victim of violent crime are low. Violent crimes by strangers in public places are still rare and account for a very small part of recorded crime.

You can make yourself even less likely to be the victim of a violent crime (for example robbery, i.e. mugging, or assault) by taking a few sensible precautions. Many are common sense, and may be things you already do. Making yourself safer doesn't mean changing your entire lifestyle, personality or wardrobe, and it doesn't mean never going out at all.

You should think about how you would act in different situations before you are in them. Think about whether you would stay and defend yourself (using reasonable force), risking further injury, or whether you would give an attacker what they want, to avoid injury. There is nothing wrong with doing either, but you should think about the options – there will be no time to do so if you are attacked.

#### Some general points:

- •You will be safest in bright, well lit and busy areas.
- •Try to look and act confident look like you know where you are going and walk tall.
- •You might like to spread your valuables around your body. For example, keep your phone in your bag, your house keys in your pants pocket and your money in your jacket.



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# **Prevention Tips**

If someone tries to take something from you, it may just be better to let them take it rather than to get into a confrontation and risk injury.

- •You can use reasonable force in self-defense. You are allowed to protect yourself with something you are carrying, like keys.
- •If you decide to defend yourself, be aware that your attacker might be stronger than you, or may take what you are using in self-defense and use it against you. It is often better just to shout loudly and run away!
- •Shout "fire" rather than "help" it can get more results.
- •If you use a wheelchair, keep your things beside you rather than at the back of the chair.
- •Try not to be conspicuous about the valuables you are carrying. Talking on your mobile phone, carrying a laptop, or showing your friend your new gold ring all show thieves that you are worth robbing.
- •When out walking or jogging, you should not listen to a personal stereo through headphones, so you can stay more alert to your surroundings.

If you or your neighborhood would like to have a safety talk or start a Neighborhood Watch please contact Deputy Aaron Rosen in the Crime Prevention Unit at 757-890-3639.